

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0513

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DARESSLAAM

AMEMBASSYLONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1992

LIMDIS

LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PARTY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PDEV OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), RH UK US BC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. HIGH LEVEL VISIT TO BOTSWANA

REF: A) LAGOS 9563 B) LONDON 14096

1. SUMMARY: WE WARMLY WELCOME POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY HIGH LEVEL U.S. OFFICIALS TO BOTSWANA (REF A). WITH FORTHCOMING SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, TIMING WOULD SEEM TO BE GOOD, A SUITABLE PROGRAM CAN BE ARRANGED AND (WE BELIEVE) LOGISTICS WORKED OUT. THE MAJOR BENEFITS WOULD, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, BE TO MAKE UP FOR PREVIOUS NEGLECT AND OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS SOME ATTENTION ON BOTSWANA AS
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FRONTLINE STATE THAT REMAINS THE LEADING PROPONENT OF PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.
END SUMMARY.

2. TIMING. FROM LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION (REF B), VISIT COULD OCCUR BETWEEN EARLY TUESDAY, AUGUST 30 (MEETINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL HAVE CONCLUDED PREVIOUS EVENING) AND

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31 (IN ORDER TO BE IN SALISBURY FOR DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THERE 0900 SEPT. 1). OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN ABOUT TIMING IS AVAILABILITY OF PRES. KHAMA WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN THIS WEEKEND FOLLOWING ONE WEEK'S REST IN RURAL BOTSWANA. DISCUSSIONS AT LUSAKA WITH VP MASIRE WOULD, WE ARE CONFIDENT, BE BEST MEANS OF CONFIRMING PRES. KHAMA'S AVAILABILITY FOR DISCUSSIONS.

3. PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE VISIT SHOULD CENTER AROUND FOUR SCHEDULED EVENTS AND SEVERAL UNSCHEDULED ONES. WE WOULD SUGGEST SCHEDULED EVENTS INCLUDE:

(A) TWO MEETINGS WITH PRES. KHAMA NINETY MINUTES EACH TO MINIMIZE DEMAND ON HIS STRENGTH, ONE CONCERNING RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS; THE SECOND, THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MORE GENERALLY.

(B) VISIT TO PARLIAMENT (WHICH WILL STILL BE IN SESSION). WE WOULD HOPE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY, IF USDEL AGREEABLE, TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OCCASION TO HIGHLIGHT BOTSWANA'S ATTACHMENT TO DEMOCRACY, TO PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-RACIALISM, ETC.

(C) VISIT TO UNIVERSITY AND OPEN MEETING WITH STUDENTS. UNIVERSITY RESUMES THIS WEEK. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT A SIZABLE AUDIENCE WOULD BE PRESENT AT OPEN MEETING WITH STUDENTS. UNIVERSITY WOULD ALSO PROVIDE SUITABLE PLATFORM FOR PUBLIC

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STATEMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO BOTSWANA'S COMMITMENT TO OPEN SOCIETY, FREEDOM OF EDUCATION AND INQUIRY, AND WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST REFUGEES.

(D) WE WOULD ENVISAGE RECEPTION TO ENABLE AMERICANS AND CROSS SECTION OF PEOPLE TO MEET WITH VISITORS (PERHAPS CUTTING IN HALF FOURTH OF JULY GUEST LIST OF 350 NAMES). IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PROPOSE IMPROMPTU VISITS TO REFUGEE LIVING QUARTERS AND MEETINGS WITH REFUGEE LEADERS. REASON FOR IMPROMPTU VISITS IS TO AVOID TENDENCY OF REFUGEES TO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS AND TURN MEETINGS INTO SPEECHMAKING AND GENERALIZED ATTACKS ON WEST AND U.S. WE WOULD ALSO WANT TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF BRIEF STOPOVER IN FRANCISTOWN AND/OR SELEBI-PIKWE TO OBSERVE ZIMBABWE REFUGEE CAMPS -- A MOVE THAT COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE HEALTHY IMPACT BY ASSURING PUBLICITY FOR LATEST ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, WE BELIEVE A MINIMUM OF ONE AND ONE-HALF DAYS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

4. LOGISTICS. WE RECOGNIZE THE DETERRING EFFECT OF GABORONE'S SHORT (5100) RUNWAY AND HOPE THIS WOULD NOT AGAIN PROVE TO BE AN INSUPERABLE PROBLEM. PRETORIA WILL HAVE TO COMMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF DAO AIRCRAFT WHICH, FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, SEATS EIGHT MAXIMUM. SMALL CHARTER AIRCRAFT, SEATING SEVEN, ARE ALSO GENERALLY

AVAILABLE. FLIGHT FROM JOHANNESBURG BY EITHER MEANS IS
ROUGHLY 45 MINUTES. ONWARD TRANSPORTATION TO SALISBURY
CAN BE ARRANGED EITHER BY 8-SEAT CHARTER OR VIA JONANNESBURG
(PRETORIA PLEASE PROVIDE EXACT FLIGHT SCHEDULES).

5. I WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE TO DO WHATEVER IS WITHIN
OUR MEANS TO FACILITATE PROPOSED VISIT. EARLIEST POSSIBLE
INDICATION OF DECISION AND TIMING WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
NORLAND

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